

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 095328

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SREF, IS

SUBJECT: SECRETARY- EBAN MAY 10: SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRATION
TO ISRAEL

1. NEAR END HOUR' S CONVERSATION EBAN EXPRESSED TO SECRETARY
ISRAEL' S GRATITUDE FOR WHAT USG HAD DONE TO FACILITATE
SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRATION. USG HAD HAD GREAT SUCCESS IN
ACHIEVING NON- IMPLEMENTATION OF SOVIET LAW. THIS PROVED US
AND WORLD OPINION WAS IMPORTANT TO USSR, FACT THAT HAD
IMPLICATION IN OTHER AREAS.

2. UNFORTUNATELY, EBAN SAID, HARASSMENT CONTINUES OF JEWS
DESIRING TO EMIGRATE. THERE WERE " DRACONIAN TRIALS"
PLANNED, E. G., IN MINSK, WHICH WOULD EXCITE ISRAELI
OPINION AND THAT OF DIASPORA. WHY USSR PURSUING THESE PETTY
ACTIONS, ISRAEL DID NOT KNOW.

3. SECRETARY SAID HE BELIEVED OUR EFFORTS, TAKING FULL
ACCOUNT OF CONGRESS' INTEREST IN MATTER, HAD BEEN EFFECTIVE.
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WE HOPED THIS PROBLEM WOULD NOT BE BARRIER TO APPROVAL OF
TRADE BILL. SOVIETS KNOW IF THEY WERE TO RENEGE ON THEIR
UNDERTAKINGS TO US THIS WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE. SECRETARY
STRESSED THAT MFN WAS KEY TO IMPROVING TRADE, LEND- LEASE
SETTLEMENT, AND GENERALLY, IMPROVEMENT RELATIONS WITH USSR.
WE HOPED MFN' S APPROVAL WOULD NOT BE LINKED TO FURTHER SOV
CONCESSIONS ON SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRATION. THIS WAS DELICATE

MATTER AND WE WOULD WELCOME ISRAEL' S SUPPORT. EBAN SEEMED
UNDERSTAND U. S. PROBLEM, BUT WAS NON- COMMITTAL. HE SAID
HE HOPED U. S. CONSENSUS ON MATTER COULD BE WORKED OUT.
ISRAEL DID NOT WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN " TECHNICALITIES AND
METHODS."

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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